

OPEN DATA POLICING



SOUTHERN COALITION
for SOCIAL JUSTICE

ABOUT OPEN DATA POLICING

Open Data Policing is a first-of-its-kind platform that aims to make real the recommendation of the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing to make stop, search, and use-of-force “data...publicly available to ensure transparency.” The site currently aggregates, visualizes, and publishes public records related to all known traffic stops that have occurred in North Carolina since 2002, in Maryland since 2013, and in Illinois since 2005.

Before the Open Data Policing website, there was no way to meaningfully access this data without expensive software. Open Data has allowed this type of information to become readily available and understood by the public, increasing transparency between police agencies and the communities they serve.

USES OF OPEN DATA POLICING

Locate an Officer’s Career Stop and Search History

Stopped by the police? Use our “Find a Stop” feature to locate your traffic stop. Click on the associated Officer ID number to display the enforcement history of the officer who stopped you. Maryland data includes an officer’s stop, search, and contraband seizure data, broken down by race and ethnicity. North Carolina data includes these features in addition to use-of-force data (traffic stops only).

Review Departmental Enforcement Patterns

Learn more about the enforcement patterns of individual police agencies. Metrics include stops, searches, search rates, contraband seizure rates, and the likelihood of search for individual stop causes—each broken down by race and ethnicity. Click on the “Agencies” tab to review the demographics of those stopped and searched in a given jurisdiction and how enforcement patterns compare to local demographics, displayed through the most recently available census data.

Compare Enforcement Practices Among Officers and Jurisdictions

Our platform allows users—including those in police management—to easily compare enforcement patterns among individual officers and agencies, evaluate the frequency and efficiency of searches, and monitor for racially disparate enforcement practices. Police managers who possess a master list of Officer ID codes can bypass the “Find a Stop” page to directly access data on individual officers under their command.

RESOURCES

Open Data Policing Website:
<https://opendatapolicing.com/>

Code for America Conference Presentation: Ian Mance, creator of the Open Data Policing website, explains the project, its creation, and how to apply the data to various initiatives. Video can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UCdkv3nvos>

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Conducting an Audit of Your Local Law Enforcement Department

Below is an outline of methodology used by Open Policing Data volunteers to identify a discrepancy in data reporting by a North Carolina local law enforcement department.

Question:

Is the law enforcement agency reporting all their data as required by law?
(NSGS § 143B-903)

Background Information:

In North Carolina, police officers are required to fill out a SBI-122 form or a form in their in-car computer software for all but a few traffic stops¹. The demographic information and stop information obtained is sent to a server in the law enforcement officer's agency office. Once a month, the agency sends all of its data to the State Bureau of Investigation.

To ensure agencies are sending all their data to the state, one can conduct an audit of records using the Open Data Policing website.

While our database publishes all known traffic stops, the system for conducting data compliance audits is not perfect. Some citations from traffic stops are not reported. For example, if a person is searched or charged as a result of a vehicular accident, it is not recorded as a stop. In order to exist in our database, a stop must be an independent event.

Process:

1. Go to the local courthouse in the county where the incident occurred. Using the court calendar, identify any hearings for citations written pursuant to traffic stops. For the purpose of an audit, one would want to collect numerous samples for accuracy. Make a list of defendant names and case numbers.
2. Ensure the stops you want to look for fall under the correct jurisdiction, whether its highway patrol, local police, or sheriff's department. For example, Asheville Police Department may show up as "ADP" or the State Highway Patrol as "SHP."
3. Find the clerk. Using your list, request printouts of the corresponding ACIS reports. ACIS reports include the race, gender, and age of the person stopped. This information is necessary for using the website later on. If they cannot obtain ACIS printouts, request to see the shucks (groups of tickets in the courthouse) and ask to make copies yourself.

¹ Traffic stops made pursuant to DUI checkpoints are not required to be recorded.



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310 DURHAM                ICA INQUIRY 01 12CR 062729      FILM: 1500439999
DISPOSED                  R  S DOB/AGE          CRS      FILING DATE: 121812
WARRANT                   B  M 07111991 DL#: 39726526      NC
RILEY, CARLOS, ANTONIO, JR *          CIT#:          TRIAL DATE: 072715
1718 ROSETTA DR          CSLR:          CSLRC:          AM
DURHAM                    NC 27701 DEF ATTY: CHARNS, M, ALEXANDER  TYP: A  VRA: Y
CHG/ARRN OFFN: F ASSAULT LEO/PO/OTHER SER INJRY 14-34.7
COMPLAINANT: MCMASTER, T          CPD ISSUED: 121812  SERVED: 121812
OFFN DATE: 121812  ARRN DATE:          MOTIONS DATE:          DISP DATE: 010713
CONT. D: 00 S: 00 C: 01 NR: 00 INT?:  FRM:  RSONCO:          GANG REL:  DV CV: N

PLEA VER MOD      FINE      COSTS      WCC      REST      JUDGE      PAID      TO-BE-PAID
          VD      $          $          $
CONV OFFN:
SENT LEN:          -          SENT TYPE:          CONS F/JGMT:
PROB:
AREA CD:  ACCD:  HWY:          V LIC:          TRANS TO SUPERIOR:
CDL: N  CMV: N  HAZ: N  TRP/DIST:  V ST:          V TYP:          APPELLATE:

ARREST DATE: 121812 CHECK DIGIT: 2160GVW SID: NC1292517A LID:
NEXT#:          PF2 - NAME INQUIRY          ADDL CHARGES: Y
3279-E          PAPA0185          24/009

```

4. Once you have the ACIS printouts, you can use the Open Data Policing website by going to the “Find A Stop” section. Keep in mind the following caveats as you enter the appropriate information:
 - a. Within the ACIS report, there is a line towards the bottom that includes the shorthand ACCD for accident. If it says “N” or is blank, the stop should appear in the Open Data Policing database.
 - b. Law enforcement officers will often calculate the age of the individual on the spot. The ACIS report, however, reports date of birth. When running through the website, first enter information without the age. Then narrow down the results to ages within one to two years of the officer’s estimate and the actual age as calculated from date of birth.

We recommend organizing the information you find in a spreadsheet similar to this example. This will aid in easy comparison. [To see a copy of the spreadsheet, please [visit this link](#) or see the additional materials.]

5. If there any gaps between the agency’s reporting and the SBI report, it means the agency did not send their records to the State Bureau of Investigation and may be out of compliance with state law.

This auditing process is a mechanism for testing whether an agency is recording all of their traffic information. It is not for calculating compliance rates of reporting with precision.



Note:

The site is fully automated and updates weekly. The law requires departments to report stops within 60 days of the last day of the month in which the traffic stop occurred. Most departments report sooner. If a department has not reported known stops within 60 days of the last day of the month in which a stop occurred, it is likely out of compliance.

Identifying An Individual Officer's Stop Data

Below is an outline of methodology used by Open Policing Data volunteers to identify an individual officer's stop data.

Question:

How do I identify data that corresponds to an individual officer's stop history using the website?

Background Information:

In North Carolina, police officers are required to fill out a SBI-122 form or a form in their in-car computer software for all but a few traffic stops². The demographic information and stop information obtained is sent to a server in the law enforcement officer's agency office. Once a month, the agency sends all of its data to the State Bureau of Investigation.

To ensure agencies are sending all their data to the state, one can conduct an audit of records using the Open Data Policing website.

While our database publishes all known traffic stops, the system for conducting data compliance audits is not perfect. Some citations from traffic stops are not reported. For example, if a person is searched or charged as a result of a vehicular accident, it is not recorded as a stop. In order to exist in our database, a stop must be an independent event.

Finally, there is no standardized officer ID number used for all law enforcement officers in the state. The Officer ID number in the Open Data Policing Database does not correspond to any other ID number and is used only for data reporting purposes. As a result, identifying an officer in the database can take many steps.

Process:

1. Go to the Open Data Policing website (<https://opendatapolicing.com/nc>) and click on the Find a Stop tab.


² Traffic stops made pursuant to DUI checkpoints are not required to be recorded.



Open Data Policing North Carolina ▾ About

North Carolina

Browse all known traffic stops to have occurred in North Carolina since Jan 01, 2002



Agencies **Find a Stop**

Review agency-level data on the racial and ethnic demographics of people stopped, searched, and subjected to force in the course of traffic stops in a given jurisdiction.

[Click here](#) to browse a list of all agencies for which data is available.

[View Agency Dashboard](#)

Search for police or sheriff's department... **View**

About

Open Data Policing aggregates, visualizes, and publishes public records related to all known traffic stops to have occurred in North Carolina since Jan 01, 2002. Data is available for most North Carolina departments and officers serving populations greater than 10,000.

North Carolina law requires all such agencies to report their data on a monthly basis to the NC Department of Justice; however, some datasets are incomplete or remain unreported. Where data sets are incomplete or missing from the website it is because they have not been reported to the state agency from which the site derives its records. Open Data Policing does not have access to, nor does it publish, the names of officers, drivers, or passengers involved in traffic stops.

2. On the Find a Stop tab, click on Advanced Search

Agencies **Find a Stop**

Use this feature to identify the stop and search patterns of individual police officers. Search for North Carolina traffic stops using the form fields below. Use **Advanced Search** for additional filtering criteria. When you have found the stop you are looking for, click the Officer ID hyperlink to review the data associated with the officer involved.

Agency Name

Agency Name

ex: Durham Police Department

Start date **End date**

Start date End date

ex: 8/13/2013 ex: 8/13/2014

Age **Gender**

Age ---

Race **Ethnicity**

About

Open Data Policing aggregates, visualizes, and publishes public records related to all known traffic stops to have occurred in North Carolina since Jan 01, 2002. Data is available for most North Carolina departments and officers serving populations greater than 10,000.

North Carolina law requires all such agencies to report their data on a monthly basis to the NC Department of Justice; however, some datasets are incomplete or remain unreported. Where data sets are incomplete or missing from the website it is because they have not been reported to the state agency from which the site derives its records. Open Data Policing does not have access to, nor does it publish, the names of officers, drivers, or passengers involved in traffic stops.

Dataset Facts

Timeframe	Jan 01, 2002 - Aug 31, 2017
Stops	22,435,691
Searches	678,759
Agencies	317

- On the Advanced Search page, you can enter the information about your traffic stop, including the name of the law enforcement agency that made the stop, the date of the stop (in both the Start Date and End Date boxes), purpose of the stop (as listed on your citation), as well as your gender and race. Do not enter your age. This information sometimes can be off by a year due to a police officer accidentally converting the date of birth on a driver's license to an incorrect age. Click on the submit button.



Open Data Policing North Carolina About

Basic Search

Agency Name

 ex: Durham Police Department

Start date **End date**
 ex: 8/13/2013 ex: 8/13/2014

Age

Race

Ethnicity

Gender

Advanced Search

Officer ID

 ex: 227

Purpose

- Speed Limit Violation
- Stop Light/Sign Violation
- Driving While Impaired
- Safe Movement Violation
- Vehicle Equipment Violation
- Vehicle Regulatory Violation
- Seat Belt Violation
- Investigation
- Other Motor Vehicle Violation
- Checkpoint

Action

- Verbal Warning
- Written Warning
- Citation Issued
- On-View Arrest
- No Action Taken

Submit

4. Quite often, there will be only one stop that matches your information and is within one year of your age at the time of the stop. In the example below, if the stop involved a Non-Hispanic, Black male aged 24 at the time of the stop, then it is likely that the first stop is his and that the officer involved is number 614.

Open Data Policing North Carolina About

Show Search ▼

Stops (11 total)

Date	Gender	Race	Ethnicity	Age	Agency	Officer ID
2/25/2016 10:55 a.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	24	Durham Police Department	614
2/25/2016 2:50 p.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	45	Durham Police Department	891
2/25/2016 3:25 p.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	46	Durham Police Department	702
2/25/2016 3:39 p.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	19	Durham Police Department	110
2/25/2016 3:40 p.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	28	Durham Police Department	395
2/25/2016 3:45 p.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	28	Durham Police Department	702
2/25/2016 3:48 p.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	65	Durham Police Department	891
2/25/2016 3:49 p.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	69	Durham Police Department	110
2/25/2016 7:20 p.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	21	Durham Police Department	480
2/25/2016 11:42 p.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	23	Durham Police Department	1000
2/25/2016 11:45 p.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	20	Durham Police Department	1047



If this is the case, then it is reasonably safe to assume that this is your stop, especially if the law enforcement agency is for a small community that has few stops. You then can click on the officer ID number for your stop and see the stop history for the officer.

Open Data Policing North Carolina About

Show Search ▼

Stops (11 total)

Date	Gender	Race	Ethnicity	Age	Agency	Officer ID
2/25/2016 10:55 a.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	24	Durham Police Department	614
2/25/2016 2:50 p.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	45	Durham Police Department	891
2/25/2016 3:25 p.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	46	Durham Police Department	702
2/25/2016 3:39 p.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	19	Durham Police Department	110
2/25/2016 3:40 p.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	28	Durham Police Department	395
2/25/2016 3:45 p.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	28	Durham Police Department	702
2/25/2016 3:48 p.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	65	Durham Police Department	891
2/25/2016 3:49 p.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	69	Durham Police Department	110
2/25/2016 7:20 p.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	21	Durham Police Department	480
2/25/2016 11:42 p.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	23	Durham Police Department	1000
2/25/2016 11:45 p.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	20	Durham Police Department	1047

5. In many cases, especially in larger communities, there may be more than one possible match. The example below is a search for a stop for speeding by the Durham Police Department on 2/25/16 of a Non-Hispanic, Black male. The person stopped was aged 28 at the time of the stop. The result of this search shows multiple stops that match the criteria, and different officers made each stop. For stops with multiple possible matches, another approach is needed to find out which stop is the true match and which officer made the stop.

Open Data Policing North Carolina About

Find a Traffic Stop Find an Agency

Show Search ▼

Stops (11 total)

Date	Gender	Race	Ethnicity	Age	Agency	Officer ID
2/25/2016 10:55 a.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	24	Durham Police Department	614
2/25/2016 2:50 p.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	45	Durham Police Department	891
2/25/2016 3:25 p.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	46	Durham Police Department	702
2/25/2016 3:39 p.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	19	Durham Police Department	110
2/25/2016 3:40 p.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	28	Durham Police Department	395
2/25/2016 3:45 p.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	28	Durham Police Department	702
2/25/2016 3:48 p.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	65	Durham Police Department	891
2/25/2016 3:49 p.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	69	Durham Police Department	110
2/25/2016 7:20 p.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	21	Durham Police Department	480
2/25/2016 11:42 p.m.	Male	Black	Non-Hispanic	23	Durham Police Department	1000



- If you have been assigned a court date, you can look up your case on the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) website by using information that is on your traffic citation. You can search for the citation number or your name using the links below:

Citation # <http://www1.aoc.state.nc.us/www/calendars/CitationQuery.html>
 Name <http://www1.aoc.state.nc.us/www/calendars/CitationQueryByName.html>

- Once you find your case, you can find the AOC officer number for the officer who made the stop. Unfortunately, this number is not the same as the officer number used in the Open Data Policing database. In order to determine which officer number in the Open Data Policing database is associated with the AOC officer number, you will need to take several additional steps.
- Look up other cases involving the officer by searching on that officer number at the link below:

<http://www1.aoc.state.nc.us/www/calendars/OfficerQuery.html>

- Click on the names of several of the defendants for that officer and find other cases that are traffic offenses. Write down the name of the defendants and their case numbers.

THE NORTH CAROLINA COURT SYSTEM

10/20/2017

Arrested Offenses for Case Number:	2017710840 IF
Arrested Defendant Name:	SMITH,MARIA,A
County:	BUNCOMBE
Court Date:	12/05/2017
Session:	AM
Court Room:	ADMN

Offense Code	Description	Statute
4450	Infraction SPEEDING	20-141(B)

[<< Back](#)

- Take the list of defendants and case numbers to the Clerk of Court for the county in which the stop took place. At the clerk's office, request that the clerk provide you with the ACIS reports for those cases. The ACIS reports include the dates of the stop, the offense, and the driver demographic information.



310 DURHAM ICA INQUIRY 01 12CR 062729 FILM: 1500439999
 DISPOSED R S DOB/AGE CRS FILING DATE: 121812
 WARRANT B M 07111991 DL#: 39726526 NC
 RILEY, CARLOS, ANTONIO, JR * CIT#: TRIAL DATE: 072513
 1718 ROSETTA DR CSLR: CSLRC: AM
 DURHAM NC 27701 DEF ATTY: CHARNS, M, ALEXANDER TYP: A VRA: Y
 CHG/ARRN OFFN: DWI 14-34.7
 COMPLAINANT: MCMASTER, T CPD ISSUED: 121812 SERVED: 121812
 OFFN DATE: 121812 ARRN DATE: MOTIONS DATE: DISP DATE: 010713
 CONT. D: 00 S: 00 C: 01 NR: 00 INT?: FRM: RSONCO: GANG REL: DV CV: N

PLEA	VER	MOD	FINE	COSTS	WCC	REST	JUDGE	PAID	TO-BE-PAID
	VD		\$	\$	\$				CAB:

CONV OFFN:
 SENT LEN: - SENT TYPE: CONS F/JGMT:
 PROB: WITHDRAWN: APPEALED TO SUPERIOR:
 AREA CD: ACCD: HWY: V LIC: TRANS TO SUPERIOR:
 CDL: N CMV: N HAZ: N TRP/DIST: V ST: V TYP: APPELLATE:

ARREST DATE: 121812 CHECK DIGIT: 2160GVW SID: NC1292517A LID:
 NEXT#: PF2 - NAME INQUIRY ADDL CHARGES: Y
 3279-E PAPA0185 24/009

- Using dates of the stop, the offense, and the driver demographic information you can look up the stops in the Open Data Policing database. While there may be some false matches, many should have a single officer number associated with them. This should be the number of the officer in your case.



Terminology Guide

These key terms are defined in the context of the website.

Race

The website includes categories of race to include White, Black, Native American, Asian, and Other. This data reflects what the state requires from law enforcement. When using the website, ensure that the “View results by” toggle in the upper right hand corner is correctly set for race and not ethnicity.

Ethnicity

The website only defines ethnicity as “Hispanic” and “Non-Hispanic,” which is based on how the state classifies ethnicity. When using the website, ensure that the “View results by” toggle in the upper right hand corner is correctly set for ethnicity and not race.

Stop rate

The rate at which law enforcement officers stop vehicles.

Stop cause

The recorded reason as to why a law enforcement officer stops a vehicle.

Search rate

The percentage of traffic stops in which law enforcement officers conduct searches of some kind (people, property, or vehicle).

Contraband

Items seized by officers in traffic stops.

Contraband hit-rate

The rate at which contraband is seized during a traffic stop.

Use of force

A physical confrontation or contact between an individual and the law enforcement officer.

Racial Profiling Act of North Carolina

For more information, visit http://www.ncleg.net/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/PDF/BySection/Chapter_143B/GS_143B-903.pdf.

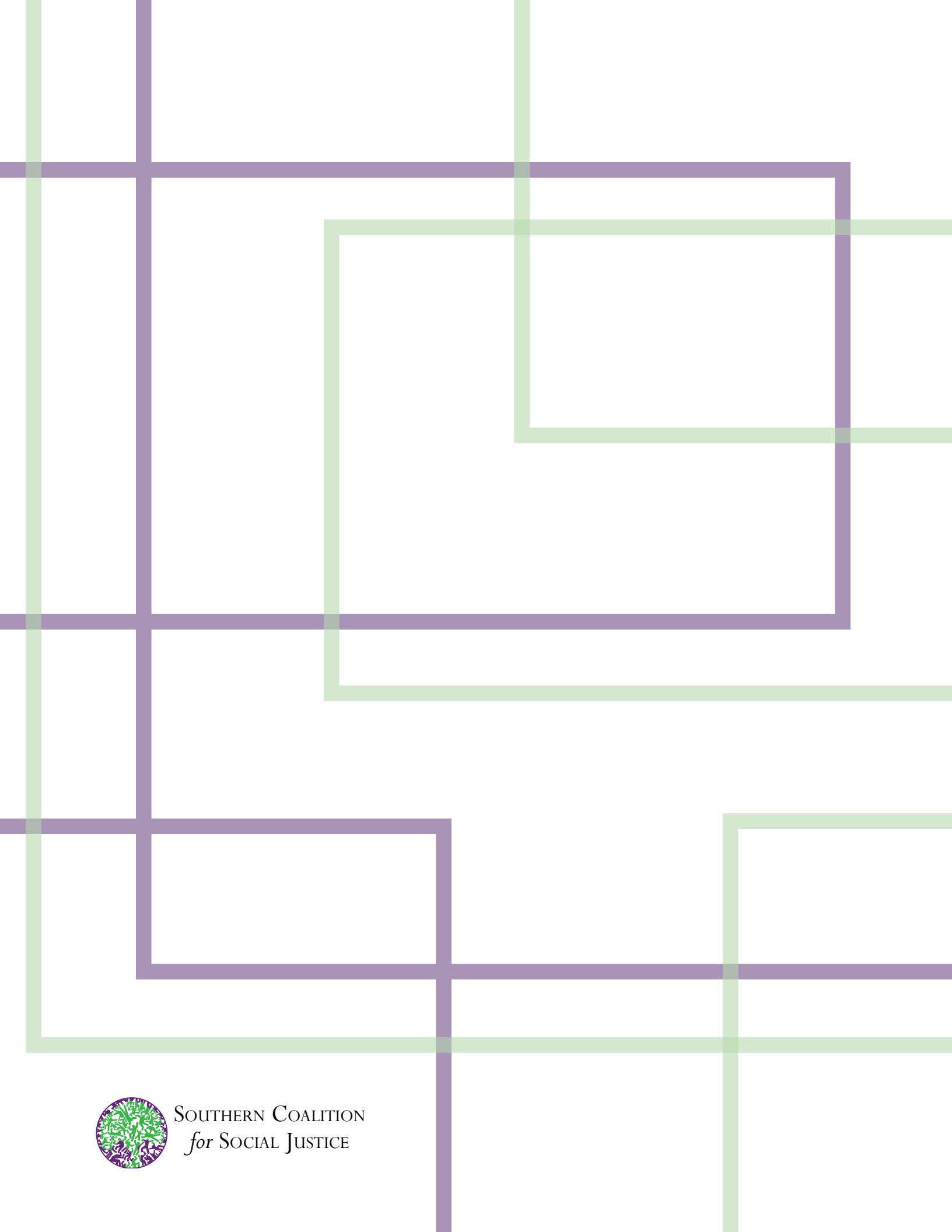


Interpreting Data

When reporting information found on the website, be mindful in noting the raw numbers involved. For every percentage or graph shown on the website, there is a data tab where one can get the actual raw numbers. Larger raw numbers are more reliable. For example, if 49% of people stopped in an area were black and the raw number is 5,000, this percentage will be more accurate and meaningful than a pool of fifty people with the same percentage.

One can also increase the accuracy by noting trends over spans of five or more years, rather than one year or shorter. Averages can easily be skewed by events in a short period of time.





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